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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY
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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: MOPS PREL OAU RW ET

SUBJECT: LETTER TO SALIM SALIM ON US SUPPORT OF OAU

REF: (A) 92 STATE 373137

((NOTE: STATE 373137 SENT 11/17 TO ADDIS ABABA FOR THE
OAU AND BISSAU FOR A/S COHEN IS REPEATED FOR THE OAU IN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES L DARIS
DATE/CASE ID: 22 SEP 2008 200103014

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RWANDA COLLECTIVE. PLEASE NOTE THE UPDATED LIST OF ADDRESSEES.))

QUOTE

THE FOLLOWING LETTER, FROM A/S COHEN TO OAU SECRETARY GENERAL SALIM SALIM, IS FORWARDED FOR DELIVERY TO OAU HEADQUARTERS IN ADDIS.

SECRETARY GENERAL SALIM SALIM
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

DEAR MR. SECRETARY GENERAL:

- I WANTED TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE TO YOU CONCERNING THE OAU'S CONFLICT RESOLUTION ACTIVITIES. OUR SUPPORT FOR THIS OAU ENDEAVOR AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OAU PEACEKEEPING CAPABILITY ARE KEY U.S. PRIORITIES IN AFRICA.

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- THIS SUPPORT HAS ALREADY TAKEN CONCRETE FORM WITH THE U.S. TREASURY'S TRANSFER OF USD 500,000 IN ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUNDING (ESF) FOR PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES TO THE OAU'S NEW YORK ACCOUNT. WE ARE ALSO PROVIDING USD 250,000

IN FOREIGN MILITARY FUNDING (FMF) FOR THE OAU'S PROCUREMENT OF U.S. MILITARY MATERIEL. WE HAVE ASKED THAT THE OAU PROVIDE A SIMPLE MONTHLY ACCOUNTING TO EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA, OR TO EMBASSY KIGALI IF THE ACCOUNT IS BEING MANAGED THERE.

- AS YOU ARE AWARE, THIS INITIAL CONTRIBUTION IS SPECIFICALLY INTENDED FOR NON-LETHAL SUPPORT OF OAU CEASEFIRE MONITORING AND MEDIATION ACTIVITIES IN RWANDA. IN MAKING THIS CONTRIBUTION, THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO HELP THE OAU DEVELOP AN OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY NOT ONLY FOR THE RWANDAN INITIATIVE, BUT ALSO FOR FUTURE PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS IN AFRICA. EXAMPLES OF ITEMS THAT MIGHT PROVIDE SUCH CAPABILITY ARE FUEL FOR VEHICLES, RADIO BATTERIES, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, RATIONS FOR CEASEFIRE MONITORS, OR CHARTER OF A HELICOPTER TO ENHANCE RECONNAISSANCE AND LIAISON EFFORTS ALONG THE CEASEFIRE LINE. THE UNITED STATES WILL FURTHER ASSIST THE NMCG

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EFFORT

BY AUTHORIZING THE USE OF ESF FUNDING TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF LIFE INSURANCE FOR THE PEACEKEEPERS. A PORTION OF THE ESF FUNDS MAY ALSO BE USED TO HELP WITH CONFERENCE COSTS FOR THE RWANDAN PEACE TALKS IF THE OAU BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT TO DO SO.

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- IN KEEPING WITH THE INTENTION TO HELP DEVELOP THE OAU AS A PEACEKEEPING INSTITUTION, THE UNITED STATES WOULD STRONGLY PREFER THAT THESE FUNDS BE USED TO PURCHASE DURABLE GOODS, AND IS OPPOSED TO THEIR USE FOR "BONUS PAY" OR PER DIEM. WE FEAR THAT WITH THE PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED OF PROVIDING EACH MILITARY MONITOR IN RWANDA USD 86 PER DAY, THE OAU MAY PRICE ITSELF OUT OF THE PEACEKEEPING BUSINESS.

- I WOULD ASK THAT THE OAU DESIGNATE A POINT OF CONTACT IN ADDIS ABABA WITH WHOM WE AND OTHER DONORS CAN COORDINATE OUR SUPPORT FOR PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES. THE POINT OF CONTACT WOULD NEED TO BE AUTHORIZED TO REQUISITION MATERIEL AND EQUIPMENT USING DONOR FUNDING.

- WE RECOMMEND THAT THE OAU CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A MILITARY "PLANNING CELL" SIMILAR TO THE PEACEKEEPING STAFF AT UN HEADQUARTERS. SUCH A PEACEKEEPING CELL COULD PLAN AND COORDINATE OAU PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS, CAPTURE "LESSONS LEARNED" FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CURRENT NMOG IN RWANDA AND MAINTAIN AND ACCOUNT FOR DONATED EQUIPMENT TO ENSURE FUTURE USE.

- WE COMMEND GENERAL OPALEYE AND THE OAU ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NMOG OBSERVERS IN RWANDA. THE NMOG COMMANDER HAS ORGANIZED AND DEPLOYED HIS MONITORING FORCE IN AN OUTSTANDING MANNER. THEIR EFFORTS GREATLY ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS OF ACHIEVING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN THE CONFLICT IN RWANDA AND REFLECT CREDIT ON THE OAU AS AN INSTITUTION.

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- THE UNITED STATES IS PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO COLLABORATE
WITH THE OAU AS IT DEVELOPS ITS CAPACITY TO RESOLVE
CONFLICTS IN AFRICA. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR REACTION AND
THOUGHTS ON OUR COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE.

SINCERELY,

HERMAN J. COHEN

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KANTER

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